

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060146

47

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: PLANNED VISIT TO CUBA BY CYPRIOT OFFICIAL

1. REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS AN INFORMAL NOTE ABOUT THE ALLEGED PLANS OF CYPRIOT COMMISSIONER FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT TO VISIT CUBA SHORTLY, WHICH TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL HANDED TO EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN MARCH 10.

2. BEGIN TEXT

--1. THE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS HAS RECENTLY REPORTED THAT MR. ANDREAS AZINAS, THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMISSIONER FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT, WILL BE VISITING CUBA SHORTLY. THESE REPORTS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 060146

--2. THE PRESS REPORTS POINT OUT THAT DURING THIS VISIT THE MAIN INTEREST OF MR. AZINAS WILL BE TO REVIEW WITH CUBANS THE TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND CYPRUS. HOWEVER, AFTER RECALLING THAT MR. AZINAS IS ONE OF THE MOST TRUSTED MEN OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS AND THAT HE CARRIED OUT SECRET MISSIONS IN THE PAST SUCCESSFULLY AS THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARCHBISHOP, THE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS DOES NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS GOING TO CUBA WITH A MUCH

MORE SERIOUS OBJECTIVE THAN REVIEWING THE TRADE RELATIONS.

--3. IT IS KNOWN THAT IN PAST YEARS MR. AZINAS PLAYED THE KEY ROLE IN MAKING THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECRET IMPORTATION INTO CYPRUS OF ARMS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

--4. UPON HIS RETURN TO CYPRUS IN LATE 1974 ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS DECLARED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO RECEIVE ANY ASSISTANCE FROM ANY SOURCE IN ORDER TO SAVE CYPRUS FROM THE TRAGEDY IT FOUND ITSELF IN. THE ARCHBISHOP AS WELL AS MANY GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OF A "LONG TERM STRUGGLE" MORE FREQUENTLY IN RECENT MONTHS.

--5. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND AND IN VIEW OF THE ROLE CUBA HAS PLAYED IN ANGOLA, A VISIT TO CUBA BY MR. AZINAS AT THIS TIME LOOKS SUSPICIOUS AND DEMANDS TO BE WATCHED CAREFULLY BY ALL CONCERNED.

END TEXT

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